

# PERSONALITIES OF THE ROARING 1920S

An Introduction to the  
Individuals and Groups  
That Captured the Public's  
Imagination During the  
Jazz Age

# AL “SCARFACE” CAPONE

Al Capone was a rumrunner and a bootlegger during the era of Prohibition. He ran the alcohol trade in the city of Chicago, made millions of dollars, and was responsible for the deaths of dozens of police officers who attempted to enforce the law during Prohibition: the Volstead Act.

Because criminals like Al Capone were able to make enormous profits – and because so many Americans were complicit in the crime, Prohibition failed.





## A. MITCHELL PALMER & THE PALMER RAIDS

After World War I and the Russian Revolution, when a small group of Bolsheviks overthrew the government in the largest nation on Earth, many Americans feared communists, anarchists, socialists, labor organizers, and radicals of all persuasions. During this “Red Scare,” A. Mitchell Palmer arrested and deported many of these people, searching homes without warrants and often deporting individuals without cause during what became known as “The Palmer Raids.” Radical labor union like the I.W.W. “Industrial Workers of the World” were suspected of harboring radicals. Thus, more conservative group like the AFL made a point of announcing their loyalty to the nation by denouncing Bolshevism and other variations of communism.



# MARCUS GARVEY

Marcus Garvey was the leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. He was born in Jamaica, and trained as a printer before immigrating to the United States. While in the USA, he urged African-Americans to take pride in their culture, and started the “Back to Africa” Movement.



# HENRY FORD

Henry Ford used the assembly line to mass produce the Model-T automobile. He learned the assembly line by observing a slaughterhouse, where each worker had one “cut” each in disassembling a cow or a pig. The assembly line was like a meat-packing plant in reverse. Model-T Fords came in “any color you want, as long as it’s black!”

The Model-T Ford revolutionized travel and the American way of life. Travel potential and privacy both increased as the automobile became more popular and more reliable.

ANSWER TO THE AUTOMOBILE QUESTION FOR 1910  
**FORD MODEL “T” TOURING CAR COMPLETELY EQUIPPED**

**\$950**

**COMPLETE EQUIPMENT INCLUDES**  
Magneto, Taps,  
Wind Shield,  
Speedometer, Gas Lamps,  
Generator,  
Horn, Oil Lamps,  
Tools.  
PRICE F. O. B. DETROIT.

**4 Cylinders, 22 H. P.  
Wheelbase 100 Inches.**

**Absolutely the Greatest Value Ever Offered to the American Public.**

A FORD Car costs less to operate, will run more miles and is a better investment every way than any other automobile to be had today. Every other make of Ford Car is based on the FORD MOTOR COMPANY's own design, building and operating experience, representing a hundred years of experience. When you purchase a FORD, you are getting the knowledge that it stands squarely on the fact of the number of automobiles built and sold, every model to the end of 1910 and looking over a more than 40 years of successful history.

THE 1910 Ford Model T Car combines the advantages of Power, Speed, Quiet Running, Ease of Riding, Simplicity of Operation and Low Cost of Maintenance. It is a dream car to be found in any other car in the world, regardless of price. The beauty is now being sold in a new, but is not getting better in value. We have a few more cars in the market, but our new model is being built in the factory and is being sold in the market and is being sold in the market.

**YOUR GUESS—If You Are in the Market for A  
Car—ORDER NOW!**

**FORD AUTO CO.,** 1825 West Grand Street, Richmond, Virginia.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2185.



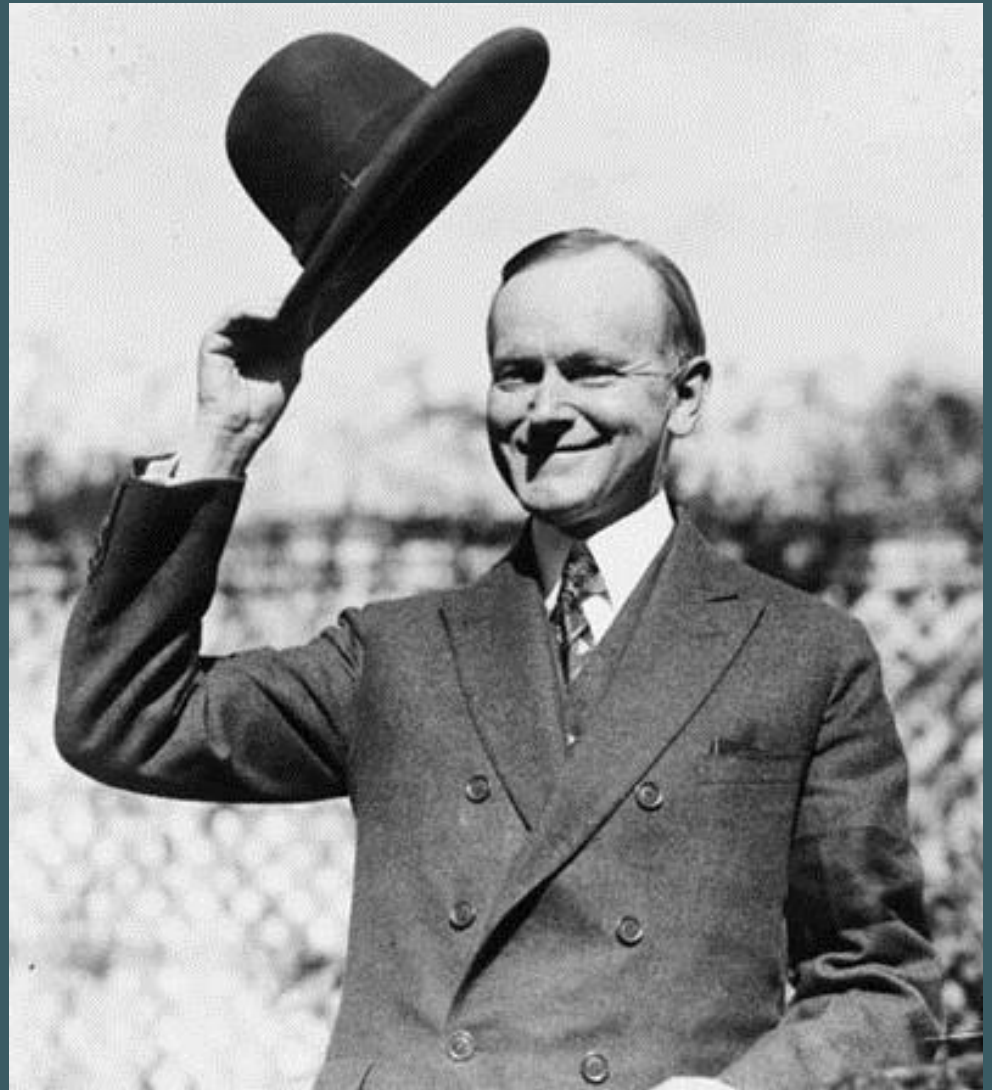
# AMELIA EARHART

She was the first woman to fly across the North American continent and the Atlantic Ocean; sadly, however, she was lost over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to fly solo across the great body of water. She is presumed dead. In recent year the search for the wreckage of her crash has yielded some mysterious clues. Bits of Earhart's luggage and cosmetic cases have been found, and some of the discoverers contend that Earhart may have survived the crash. But, still, her body has never been found, and her disappearance is still an enigma.



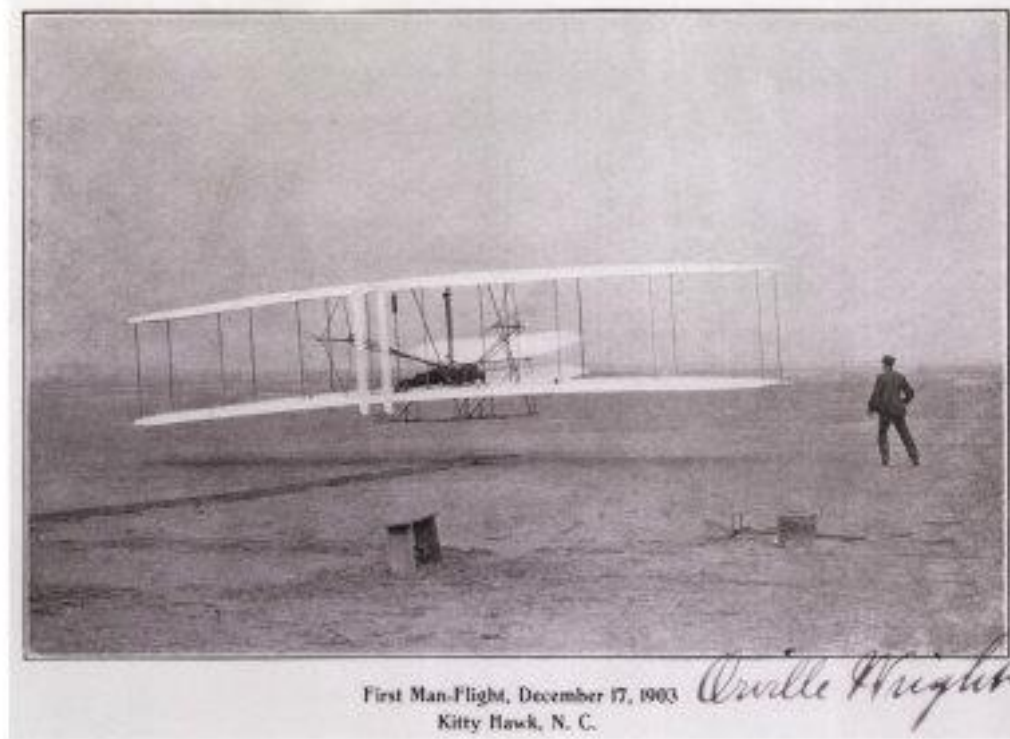
# SILENT CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge was known as “Silent” Cal. While he was President, the United States was a very prosperous nation. Coolidge remained popular throughout his Presidency, and probably could have won another term in office if he had decided to run again. Unfortunately, the United States economy was overproducing goods and rely too much on credit purchases – which eventually would cause a severe depression!





# ORVILLE AND WILBUR WRIGHT — FIRST FLIGHT, 1903



On December 17, 1903, these two inventors were the “First in Flight.” Their plane took off from a track on the beach and flew, self-propelled, for less than a minute. It traveled only a few hundred feet – but it was a start. Within fifteen years, airplanes were being used as a weapon during World War I.



## JOHN SCOPES — THE SCOPES-MONKEY TRIAL OF 1925 IN DAYTON, TN

John Scopes was a substitute teacher who was arrested in Dayton, TN for doing something your Science teacher will probably do in your class this year – teaching Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution from the book, *The Origin of the Species*. The law in Tennessee said that only the Book of Genesis could explain the origins of man.

The trial which unfolded in Tennessee in 1925 was a real drama. It attracted two very famous lawyers: William Jennings Bryan for the prosecution and Clarence Darrow for the defense. It was broadcast on the radio. Scopes lost in court, but won in the popular culture.




# SUSAN B. ANTHONY

She led the movement for woman's suffrage in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the early 1900s, and she was actually arrested and fined in the state of New York for casting a ballot in an election! (She never paid the fine.) Unfortunately, Susan B. Anthony passed away before women gained the right to vote.

As a leader of the National American Woman' Suffrage Association, Anthony had advocated for the passage of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**ARRESTED**



**Miss Susan B. Anthony**  
**for VOTING**

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**The Trial of Susan B. Anthony**  
**1:00pm, Monday, November 4, 2002**  
**Indiana Supreme Court**

Indiana State House, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis  
\*1870s dress encouraged

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**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

# JACOB LAWRENCE — AFRICAN AMERICAN PAINTER



He really became famous during the 1940s and 1950s, but many of his paintings depict African-Americans during the Great Migration or in urban settings. He described his own work as a type of cubism. Above, you see one of his more famous paintings, panel three of his “Migration Series.” The painting portrays African-Americans in migration: moving from agricultural towns of the South, to Northern Industrial cities with better paying jobs, carrying everything they owned.



# WARREN G. HARDING

Warren Harding was elected in 1920, after promising Americans that he would lead us in a “Return to Normalcy.” After the troubles of World War I and the Red Scare of the 1920s, most Americans were ready for this. Unfortunately Harding’s administration was very corrupt – the Teapot Dome scandal was uncovered after Harding passed away in 1923.

Harding’s death of a massive heart attack while visiting San Francisco was a sad event. He was replaced by his Vice President, Calvin Coolidge, who continued many of Harding’s policies.



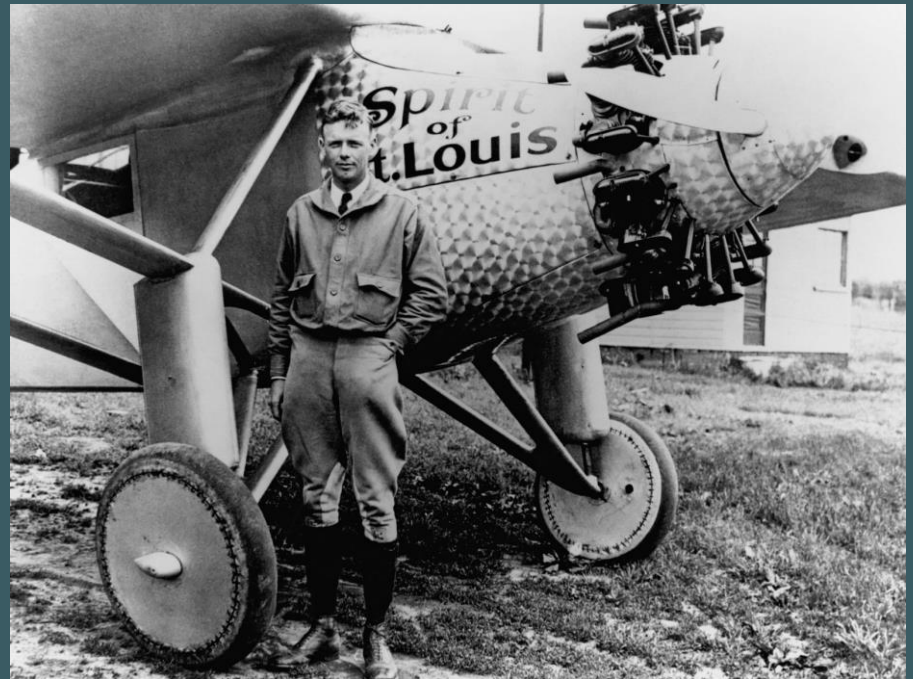
# ASA PHILIP RANDOLPH

In addition to being the founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, he went on to become the Vice President of the AFL-CIO. During the 1920s, his organization of African-American workers made him a feared man. A. Mitchell Palmer called him “the most dangerous Negro in America.” But Randolph was very much a pacifist. He demanded that Harry Truman desegregate the US Military in the 1940s, and eventually organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 – where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered the famous “I Have a Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.



# CHARLES LINDBERGH & THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic Ocean, from New York City to Paris in just over twenty-eight hours. He flew in his airplane, The Spirit of St. Louis, and when he landed, he was probably the most famous man in the world. He sailed back to the United States and was greeted with a ticker-tape parade in New York City. Later in his life tragedy and controversy would haunt this man. His son was kidnapped, held for ransom, and then murdered during the 1930s. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Lindbergh joined the America First Committee and seems to have supported Germany's Nazi government up until the Second World War began.

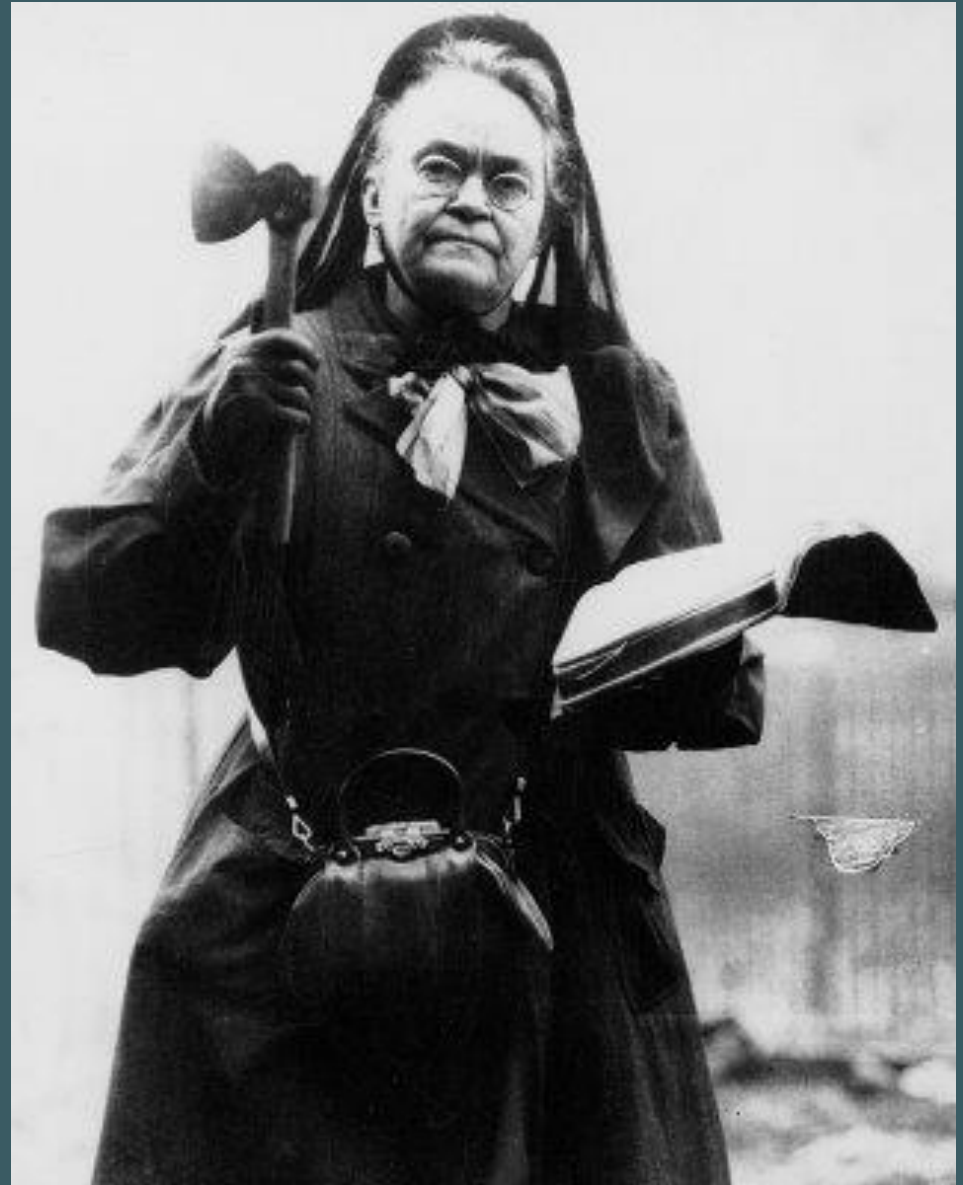




# CARRY NATION

Carry Nation was a leader of the WCTU – the Women's Christian Temperance Union. They believed that alcohol – “demon rum” – should be outlawed! Carry Nation would enter saloons dressed up as a nun and break bottles of liquor and kegs of beer with a hatch while she sang Christian hymns!!!

Carrie Nation was very much in favor of the Prohibition amendment – the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.



# GUGLIELMO MARCONI

The radio was invented by this Italian scientist, whose principle areas of interest were in electricity. The first radio station to broadcast in the United States was KDKA – Pittsburgh, PA. It's first broadcast was in 1920 – the results of the Presidential Election of 1920, which was the first national election in which women could vote! The station is still in existence today. It is also a TV station.



# LOUIS “SATCHMO” ARMSTRONG

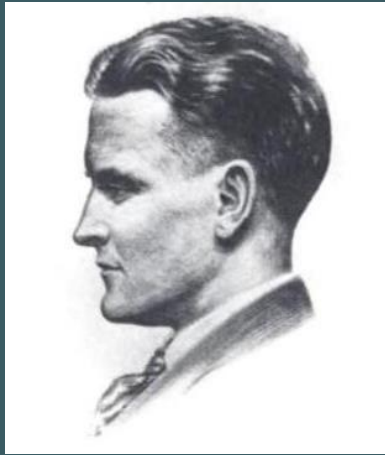
Louis Armstrong was born in New Orleans around the turn of the century – he was orphaned and wasn't certain when his exact birthday was. He became the most famous jazz musician and vocalist of his generation, and traveled the world playing his own unique style of music!

Armstrong achieve great fame and prosperity; however, he always resented the racism faced by black performing artists in the United States.

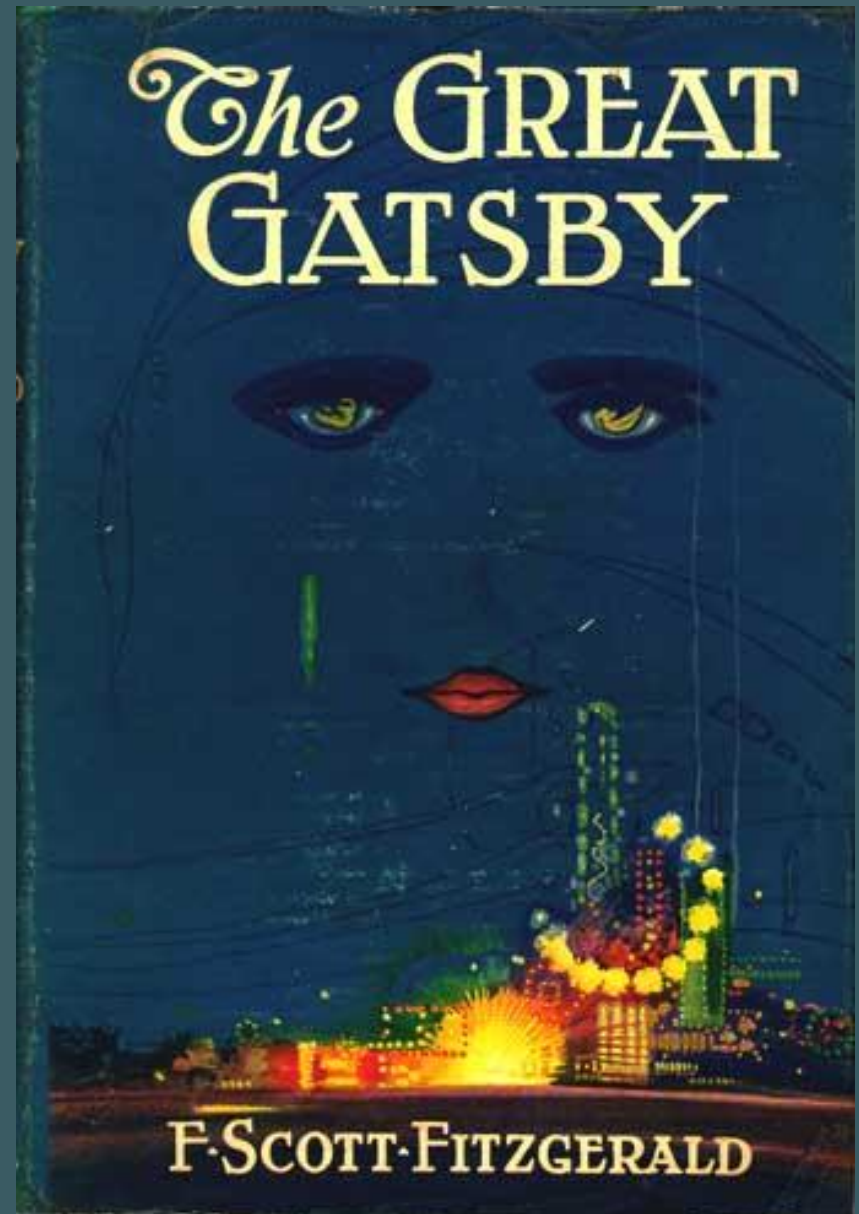




# F. SCOTT FITZGERALD



F. Scott Fitzgerald was a member of a group of expatriate American authors known as “The Lost Generation.” He was the author of *The Great Gatsby*, a novel which many of America’s literary critics consider the greatest novel in American History.



# DUKE ELLINGTON

He was born in Washington, D.C., but he really became famous after moving to New York and taking a job playing piano at the Cotton Club in Harlem. His “swing” music was a major innovation in the history of jazz. Today, he is picture on Washington DC’s quarter, standing next to his piano. Ellington would produce music until well into the 1960s, including huge concept productions like *Black, Brown, and Beige* and work for the Walt Disney Company creating film scores.



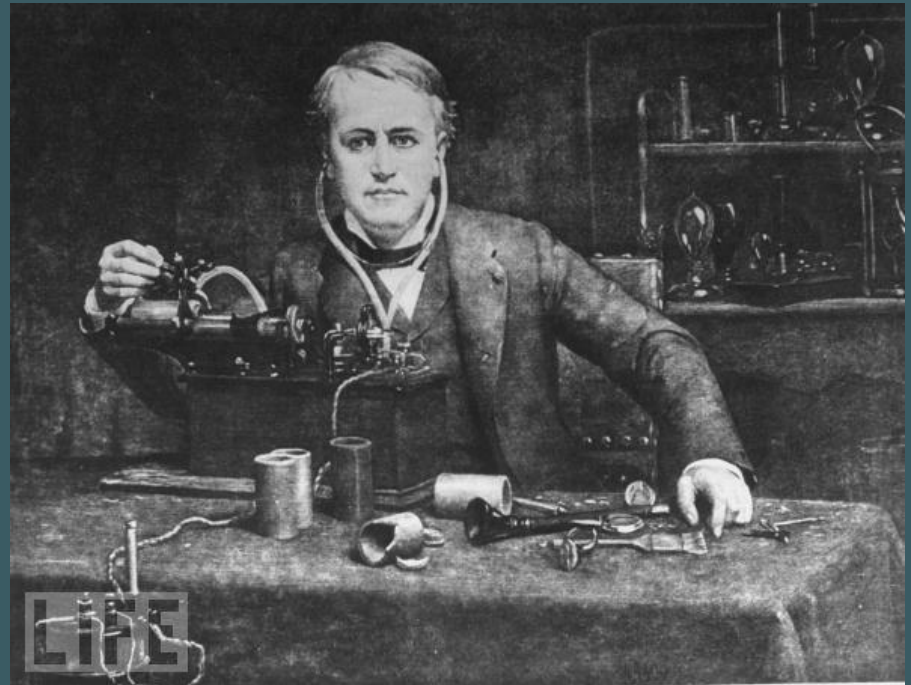
# BESSIE SMITH

She sat in with many of the greatest jazz musicians of all time, and was known as the Empress of the Blues. Her soulful, often melancholy songs were not exactly toe-tapping hits, but she was very popular among those who enjoyed her particular genre of music. Bessie Smith paved the way for other great African-American singers and achieved great popular success as well.



# THOMAS ALVA EDISON

He was known as the Wizard of Menlo Park — his hometown in New Jersey. He was responsible for inventing the first incandescent electric light bulb, the motion picture machine, the battery cell, and literally thousands of other patentable devices. In addition Thomas Edison founded numerous companies which allowed him to profit from his inventions. Edison phonograph machines, Edison light bulbs, and the Edison Electric Company revolutionized the way American lived. Quality of life in the United States changed dramatically during Edison's lifetime.





# LANGSTON HUGHES AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

## Dream Deferred

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

Like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?



# SACCO AND VANZETTI

Although they were convicted, sentenced to death, and eventually executed, many people insist to this day that the men were innocent. The transcripts from their trials show that very little evidence was presented against the men. They were convicted because they were Italian, poor English speakers and associated with anarchists. Some historians believe that at least one of the men may have been involved with the crime. Both were anarchists who had some criminal past. However, it is clear that neither man received a fair trial!

